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Palestinian children march in Hebron yesterday to mark Palestinian Independence Day, declared eight years ago by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. While the IDF has dramatically scaled down its presence in most of Hebron, soldiers shadowed the marchers. (Text: Jon Immanuel; Photo: Reuters)

'Hot pursuit' issue delays Hebron deal

BAT SHEVA TSUR
and JON IMMANUEL

INTENSIVE diplomatic activity continued last night, as Israeli and Palestinian negotiating teams sat down to hammer out the last-minute details of the Hebron redeployment agreement.

"We are at the endgame," a senior government source said last night, "but it is unlikely that we will see an agreement by [today]."

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office said the cabinet - which has to approve the agreement - would devote today's weekly meeting to other matters.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - who canceled his trip to the US to oversee the sensitive finish to the negotiations - spoke last night with US President Bill Clinton, updating him on the latest round of negotiations. Late Wednesday night, US Middle East peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross stopped off at Ben-Gurion Airport, on his way from Cairo to Washington, for



talks with US Ambassador Martin Indyk.

Sources said there was no attempt on the part of the Americans to put pressure on Israel. "Clinton knows that it is the Palestinians who are holding up the agreement," they said.

When Netanyahu called Jordan's King Hussein yesterday to wish him a happy birthday, he asked him to press Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to move forward on the agreement. Hussein reportedly replied: "The best gift I can get will be an agreement on Hebron."

A short while later, Hussein phoned Netanyahu back to report on his conversation with Arafat.

The negotiations continued at the Jerusalem office of Yitzhak Molcho, Netanyahu's legal adviser. But the senior source said they were reading water until orders arrived from Arafat. Although a meeting between Netanyahu and Arafat is in the offing, it will not take place "until there is agreement," the source added.

The source defended the proposed agreement, saying it had improved conditions for the Jewish settlers over that worked out by the previous government. Improvements include:

- agreement on the height of Palestinian buildings around the Jewish quarter;

- the establishment of 300-meter-deep buffer zones where armed persons are barred and large crowds can only enter with permission;

- joint patrols and separate Israeli armed patrols in the buffer zone;

- moving four police stations, where the Palestinian Police can keep their weapons, to a distance of 1 kilometer from Jewish settle-

ments. The main stumbling block to finalizing the agreement, the source said, continues to be the question of hot pursuit by the IDF into the H-1 area, the 85 percent of the city exclusively controlled by the PA.

In advance of redeployment, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said the army and police have been ordered to send in necessary forces into Hebron to prevent friction between Jewish and Arab residents of the city.

In Hebron, the two battalions which are normally positioned there have been reinforced to a reportedly 1,000-member force, including female riot police.

Almost everything in the Hebron talks except hot pursuit has been settled, and the gap on this matter has narrowed to whether the IDF, after an attack, can unilaterally chase terrorists into areas controlled by the Palestinian Police. Palestinian sources close to the talks said.

Another issue is a Palestinian (Continued on Page 14)

The final hours before redeployment

A KLEZMER band escorts a bar mitzva boy from Givatayim and his entourage of 300 friends and relatives down the steps of the Machpela Cave in Hebron yesterday.

Down the street, Noam Arnon, a high-profile leader of the Hebron settlement, wades into a crowd of Palestinians, and an animated discussion begins. Hands are clasped, wrists are grabbed. It looks like a lively discussion at a Batar Jerusalem soccer game.

These are not scenes we have come to expect in this town, not at this time. But it is all part of the carnival feeling that that has gripped Hebron in these days - or is it hours, or is it minutes - before the IDF redeployment.

A Palestinian yells at Arnon to tell Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to ease the closure.

"We also want you to be able to work"

HERB KEINON

Arnon replies, "But there are terrorists here." "There are Jewish terrorists as well," a Palestinian shouts back. "When the Palestinians take over security, there will be security here."

Cameras are whirring, microphones recording it all. Indeed, it is the cameras and microphones that are providing the background music, blurring the distinction between what is real in Hebron, and what is not.

The hours leading up to the final redeployment agreement have brought to the town all kinds of people who generally would not be there. Politicians, journalists, tourists, fanatical embourgeoised Jewish cowboys - people like Mordechai Levy, head of the Jewish Defense Organization in New York, who says that his

job in the US is to protect Jews, to be an army of sorts for American Jews.

It's Levy's first time in Hebron. "Where's the Jewish neighborhood," he asks? Then he answers himself, "There is no Jewish neighborhood. It's all mixed, not like Brooklyn."

All eyes are on Hebron, and many of the residents, both Jews and Palestinians, are reveling in the attention. People like attention, and they perform.

One goes to Hebron expecting to be able to touch the tension. But it's not like that, at least it hasn't been like that over the last few days.

True, there is tension on the faces of the police when they walk a dignitary - yesterday it was Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon - through the city's streets. They finger their guns and look nervously at the buildings.

(Continued on Page 14)

Journalists accused of offering bribes for 'dirt' on Netanyahu
CHAL YUDELMAN

Le... thesis the beginning of gossip-gate? And just how far will Israeli journalists stoop for the inside dirt - and we do mean dirt - on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his family?

According to Edna Halabani, union leader of workers in the Prime Minister's Office, certain journalists have tried to buy "juicy details" about Netanyahu and his family from workers in the office.

In an interview yesterday with my Radio's Razi Barkai, Halabani said Israeli journalists have offered huge amounts of money, sometimes several thousand dollars, for information about the prime minister's breakfast or how many times "little Yair [his son] washed his hands today."

"They call our workers and start questioning them, offering us money, wishing to know all kinds of things about Mrs. Netanyahu - what she was wearing, what she wanted, what the prime minister ate for breakfast and what he says to Sara. It has simply gone out of control," Halabani said.

"I have served under several prime ministers and I have never seen such behavior, such interests by journalists in the private life of a prime minister and his family," she said. "I don't belong to a political party and I am not the prime minister's spokeswoman. What has occurred in recent weeks, the efforts by the media to obtain information, passes all boundaries and has even broken the law."

She said the journalists refuse to give their names or for whom they work.

Halabani said she has not filed a complaint with the police because (Continued on Page 2)

High Court okays physical pressure against Jihad member

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice acceded late last night to the state's request to be allowed to use physical pressure to interrogate a man suspected of having critical information about an imminent terror attack.

Mohammed Hamadan is a known Islamic Jihad activist. He was one of the deportees to Lebanon in 1992 and has spent much of his time since under

arrest or administrative detention. On October 7, he was put in detention again, but was transferred to the General Security Service for interrogation on October 24.

On Tuesday, he petitioned the High Court for an injunction against the GSS's interrogation methods, and a day later the state consented, saying the GSS did not intend to use physical force (Continued on Page 2)

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Ministers demand time to review deal

SARAH HONIG

TALK of a nearing agreement on Hebron redeployment has spurred demands by ministers to see the agreement and to be permitted to study it carefully prior to being asked to approve it.

This demand is now being voiced primarily by those ministers who are most opposed to the agreement, but it also has come from some on whom Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu can count to ultimately support it.

It is still not clear whether he will submit the agreement to the Knesset for approval.

Netanyahu yesterday met with the National Religious Party's two ministers, Zevulun Hammer and Yitzhak Levy, after another meeting a day earlier with the NRP Knesset faction ended acrimoniously. But Netanyahu could not ally the NRP ministers' anxiety yesterday either, nor did he succeed in getting a clear answer on

how they would vote.

"I hope that the agreement will be so good, will so well secure the safety of Hebron's Jewish community and will so satisfactorily ensure its future development and growth that we will be glad to vote for it," Hammer said, tongue in cheek.

"But the fact is," he went on, "that we just don't know right now."

"We have not seen the agreement and we hope that we will get to see it before we are asked to vote. We also hope that no moves will be made before we have a chance to vote. We have an understanding from the prime minister that we will get to vote on the agreement even before it is finalized."

"The NRP has been a loyal coalition member and we think that it is only fair that we are not presented with facts accompis-



especially considering the deep significance that Hebron holds for us."

Yisrael Ba'aliya has given no signal that it may vote against the agreement, but Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein demanded yesterday not just to see the agreement but to "be assured that no vote would take place before the ministers are given ample time to carefully peruse the text of the agreement and study it thoroughly. We cannot be asked to hurriedly glance at papers without considering the meaning of what we are

reading. Issues that are extremely weighty and matters of life and death hang in the balance."

On the Likud side, Science Minister Ze'ev Binjamin Begin cutly noted that he "has no idea of what is in the agreement. Why should I know - I am only a minister in the government."

The one bit of good news coming Netanyahu's way from his coalition partners yesterday was provided by Tsomet, thus far considered a possible source of opposition to the deal. But after a meeting with the Tsomet Knesset faction he was assured of its support, "not because we are dealing with anything ideal but with what is most likely the least of all the evils bequeathed us by the previous, reckless Labor government," said Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled.

On the parliamentary level, Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Uzi Landau (Likud) said he would vote against the agreement, as did

MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher), who described what is about to happen in Hebron as "a sad milestone in the history of Zionism. This is a retreat from the City of the Patriarchs, a place to which we are as closely attached as Jerusalem. This is not something to which I can give my approval. For me this is a matter of conscience."

Sources close to Netanyahu said last night that if he cannot count on a coalition majority for the agreement, Netanyahu will not bring it to the Knesset's approval. He does not want a repeat of the fate of the Camp David agreement, which depended for its ratification on the Labor opposition. Netanyahu could argue that the agreement was already ratified by the Knesset when it approved the Oslo Accords under the Labor government. All that is happening now, according to this line, is the implementation of what the House had approved already.

Barak to NRP and Tsomet: Let's topple government

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR MK Ehud Barak, who is leading the party leadership's bid yesterday that he would try to topple the Netanyahu government, said he would call on the National Religious Party and Tsomet to join the effort.

Barak said if he could be assured that at least 10 coalition MKs would vote against the [Hebron] agreement, he would submit a motion of no-confidence for "the good of all of us and for the good of the process of bringing real peace and security to Israel."

"This government is bad for the

nation of Israel, not only for the Jews," he added.

A source close to Barak said he meant to signal to Netanyahu that there are no more safety nets. Netanyahu can no longer take Labor for granted to help him out of all his shortcomings and support him just because he says he's going to continue the peace process.

Barak came out strongly against the idea of forming a national unity government as a way of ensuring a wide public consensus for the Hebron redeployment.

Settlers' Council to protest redeployment plan

HERB KEINON

THE Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza is scheduled to protest the Hebron redeployment plan this morning in front of the Prime Minister's Office. This will be the first time the council will actively protest against the government.

Council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein said that the plan that is to be approved by the Netanyahu government is worse than the previous one agreed upon by the Labor government.

The purpose of the protest, said a council official, is "not to bring down the government, but rather to strengthen the government's hand, to call upon it to live up to its campaign promises."

The council had scheduled a series of protest actions last week, but cancelled them after meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. This time the council agreed that, with the

redeployment apparently so close, the time had come to take action. However, beyond tomorrow's protest, nothing else was planned.

According to the council, the main problems with the Hebron plan is that it does not give the IDF the right to operate throughout the city; the Jewish enclave is not allowed to develop beyond the addition of a dozen or so new apartment units; and all the land that belonged to the Jews before the 1929 massacre is to be turned over to the Palestinian Authority.

While the settlement council leaders were concerned that the plan will choke off development of the settlement in Hebron, Kiryat Arba head Zvi Katzover proudly told visiting Knesset speaker Dan Tichon yesterday that 90 of 180 apartments made

available for sale in his settlement were sold over the previous five days.

According to Kiryat Arba spokesman Tzuriel Popovitch, half of these apartments were sold to people from inside the settlement and half of them to people from outside Kiryat Arba.

The units were sold from \$50,000, for a three-bedroom apartment, to \$75,000, for a small home. Contracts were signed, Popovitch said, but the final terms have not been worked out pending attempts by settlement leaders to get the territories declared a preferred development area, which means that the mortgage terms there would be better.

The 90 apartments sold in Kiryat Arba are part of the 3,000 units in the territories, frozen by the previous government, that the Netanyahu government last month said it would free up for sale.

Mordechai says Hebron accord is better than what Peres agreed to

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday defended the approaching accord on Hebron, saying it provides greater security to its Jewish residents than the one agreed to by the previous Labor government.

"It's not the same agreement," Mordechai told reporters after addressing a seminar of the United Kibbutz Movement in Ramat Efal. "We insisted on several key things." They included, he said, freedom of action by the IDF throughout Hebron and a restriction on weapons held by the Palestinian Police.

"It's not ideal but these things are important considering the limits of the agreement [drafted by the previous government]," he said. Mordechai also said the agreement will allow the Jewish community of about 400 people to remain in the city, with room for development.

The defense minister acknowledged that the Netanyahu government was limited in its attempts to improve the Hebron accord completed, but never implemented, by the Labor-led administration. "There's an accord that's signed," he said. "I don't like it, but it's signed."

Steve Rodan

Winning cards and numbers

The winning cards in yesterday's Chance draw were the seven of spades, eight of hearts, eight of diamonds and ace of clubs.

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 042862 was good for NIS 1 million, while the holder of ticket number 568236 won a car. Tickets numbered 299232, 775806, 846826, 622671, 407927, 010772, 204735, and 145663 all were good for NIS 5,000, while those holding tickets ending in 71144, 64490, 47864, 69050, 19122, 23506, 78660, 57720, 25719, 32965, 57506, 50655, 51395, 97803, 85965, 65860, 40436, 21090, and 31648 all won NIS 1,000.

Those holding tickets ending in 939, 591, 859, and 205 all won NIS 100, in 19, 47, 76, and 84 NIS 30; in 79 and 02 NIS 20, and in 0 and 5, NIS 10.

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Mr. Jan Sanky, Deputy Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation
Prof. Ephraim Year, Head of the Tamir Steintz Center for Peace Research

10:30 - 12:30 First Session
Moderator: Prof. Arie Nadler
Prof. Yaron Ezrahi
The Clash Between the Civil and Consumer Cultures in Israel
Prof. Eva Etzioni-Halevy
The Collective Identity - Potential Influences of the Transition to Co-existence
Dr. Tamir Harman
Trends in the Israeli Jewish Public Opinion on the Oslo Process and its Implications
Discussion

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch Break

13:30 - 15:30 Second Session
Moderator: Prof. Yocheanan Peres
Prof. Manachem Friedman
Secular-Religious Relations Against the Background of the Peace Negotiations
Mr. As'ad Esham
Palestinians in Israel: Part of the Problem and not of the Solution;
The Question of their Status if Peace is established
Prof. Ephraim Year
The Differences between the Jewish and Arab Perceptions of the Peace Process and its Results
Discussion

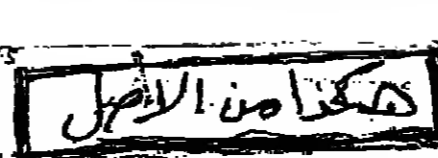
15:30 - 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:30 Third Session
Moderator: Prof. Ephraim Year
Prof. Moshe Samionov
The Future of Internal Divisions in Israeli Society
Dr. Eli Sagi
The Israeli Economy - New Possibilities?
Discussion

Friday, November 22nd

09:30 - 12:00 Fourth Session
Moderator: Prof. Noach Levin-Epstein
Dr. Yoram Peri
Relations Between the Army and Society in a Post-War Era
Dr. Yitzhak Shalev
Changes in the Territorial Organization of Israel
Prof. Benjamin Neuberger
Peace and the Quality of Democracy in Israel
Discussion

The symposium will take place on Thursday and Friday, November 21-22, 1996 at the B'nai Zion Auditorium of Beit HaTfozot (Diaspora Museum), on the Tel Aviv University campus. Entrance at gate No. 2. The lectures will be simultaneously translated into English.



HEBRON - AT A GLANCE

Palestinian Population: approximately 120,000
Jewish Population: 500, including 45 families and 150 yeshiva students.
Jewish Population of adjacent Kiryat Arba - 8,000

The Jewish population of Hebron is concentrated in a number of buildings and housing complexes. Nineteen families live in buildings adjacent to the Avraham Avinu courtyard, which also includes two kindergartens, the municipal committee offices, and a guest house. Seven families live in mobile homes at Tel Rumeida; 12 families live in Beit Hadassah, six families in Beit Schneersohn, one family in Beit Kastel, and six families in Beit Chason. Beit Romano, home to the Shavei Hebron yeshiva, is currently being refurbished.

Background
 Hebron, site of the Machpela Cave, where the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the Matriarchs Sarah, Rebecca, and Leah are buried, is considered the second holiest city in the Jewish faith.

Jews lived in Hebron almost continuously throughout the Byzantine, Arab, Mameluke, and Ottoman periods. However, the Jewish community was destroyed during a massacre in 1929, in which Arabs killed 67 Jews and forced hundreds of others to flee from the town.

The city was captured by the IDF during the Six Day War. In April, 1968, a group of Jewish activists registered at the Park Hotel and announced that they had come to re-establish a Jewish presence in the city. The first apartment buildings in Kiryat Arba were completed in 1972 and the first Jewish presence in Hebron itself was established in April, 1979.

Location
 Hebron is located 32 km. south of Jerusalem and is situated between 870 meters and 1,020 meters above sea level. The city is built on several hills and wadis. The hills, overlooking the Hebron Jewish community, are situated in the territory due to be handed over to the Palestinians and constitute one of the prime causes of concern for the safety of the Jewish residents.

Source: Government Press Office

Arbel, Shoham: Massive use of detentions to ease Hebron redeployment not an option

IT is not true that the army is planning a widespread use of administrative detentions to prevent problems during the redeployment in Hebron, State Attorney Edna Arbel and Judge Advocate General Uri Shoham told the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

Such wholesale use would not stand up to either the internal supervision of their respective offices or the supervision of the courts, the two said, because each order is carefully scrutinized to ensure that the intelligence information justifying the detention is reliable, that an indictment - even on a lesser charge - is not possible and that no lesser infringement of the detainee's freedom will prevent the feared danger.

"In many cases we have not approved [a military commander's request for detention]," Shoham noted.

Shoham said administrative detention orders generally were used when there is reliable intelligence information against someone, but the army does not want to indict the suspect in open court for fear of compromising valuable intelligence sources. Faced with a choice between compromising these sources and letting a suspected terrorist go free to commit his crimes, the army would choose to let the terrorist walk, he said.

But administrative detention - which requires neither charge nor trial and allows the evidence to be kept from the suspect and his lawyer - provides a way to put such people behind bars without compromising intelligence sources. Therefore, in the army's opinion, it saves lives, he said.

This undoubtedly violates human rights, he added, but the very real threat of terrorism makes it necessary.

However, some MKs both rejected this approach.

MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) pointed out that there are currently 274 administrative detainees - one Jewish and 273 Arab. Since 1987, there have been some 14,000 administrative detention orders.

"The price Israeli democracy pays for this is too heavy," he said, adding that it is hard to believe all these detentions were justified when no one is allowed to see the alleged evidence.

MK Abdul Malik Dahamshe (Democratic Arab Party), a lawyer, told the committee that he represented one detainee who was put in detention because of his alleged connection with a wanted terrorist. After the judge hearing the case accidentally revealed this fact, the man was able to prove that it was a case of mistaken identity - two people with the same name. There are doubtless many similar cases, Dahamshe said, but when detainees are not even told why they are being held, it is impossible to disprove the allegations against them.

EVELYN GORDON

"Administrative detention is a stain on Israeli society," MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) agreed. "I'm not willing for administrative detentions to exist in my society ... just as I am not willing for the death penalty to be an option."

However, there were also many MKs who supported Shoham's approach.

"I suggest that while you're speaking about democracy, you also remember Bus No. 5 in Dizengoff [on which 22 people were killed by a suicide bomber in 1994]," MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) said. "Under the current situation, administrative detentions are a necessity."

MKs Moshe Shahal and Haim Ramon (Labor) also agreed that detentions are sometimes necessary, and said this is especially true prior to the Hebron withdrawal.

"With respect to the [Jewish] residents of Hebron, we know who they are. We hear them on the radio. We know what they have done in the past. ... Can someone honestly tell me they don't constitute a danger?" Shahal said.

"I recommend putting everyone who says he intends to blow up the Hebron agreement into adminis-

trative detention," Ramon added. However, Zucker and committee chairman Shaul Yabalom (National Religious Party) retorted that anyone openly making threats on TV and radio can be legally prosecuted, so administrative detentions are not needed in this case.

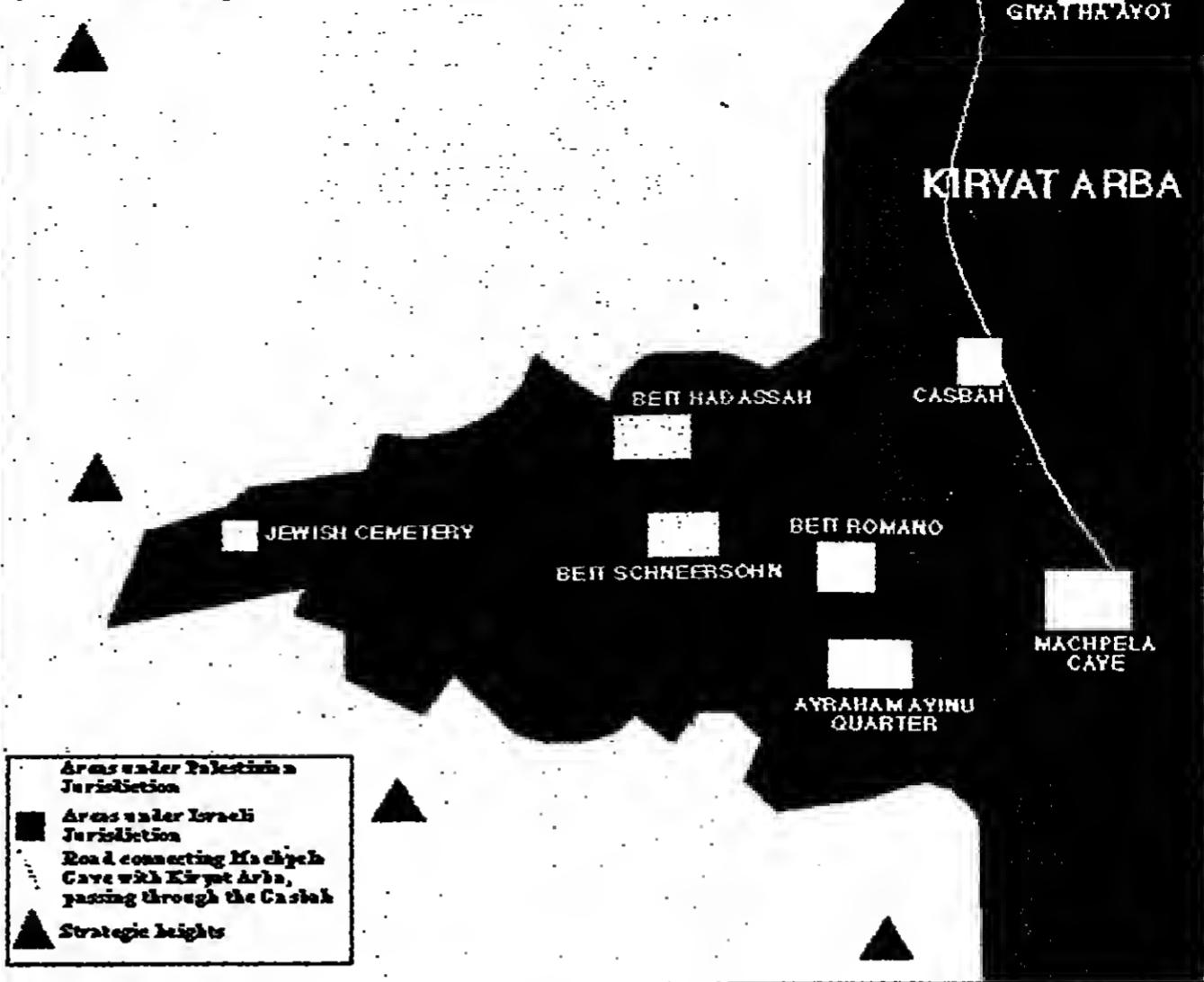
"We can't say that because of [former Kach spokesman and Hebron resident] Noam Federman, we are willing to continue administrative detentions," Beilin said.

Zucker and Beilin said they plan to introduce a bill to outlaw administrative detentions. Yabalom, however, suggested that they concentrate instead on trying to restrict the use of this tool. If they were unable to outlaw detentions while occupying powerful positions in the previous government, they will not be able to do so now, he said.

The two replied that they would assist Yabalom's effort as well if it were directed at all detentions, but refused to countenance the bill he proposed on Wednesday, which would help Jewish detainees only.

"Human rights can't be partitioned," Zucker said. "In Hebron, however, said his distinction between citizens and non-citizens is justifiable."

HEBRON REDEPLOYMENT (Proposed)



The Jerusalem supplement appearing with the Friday edition of *The Jerusalem Post*

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 (Netanyahu, Arutz 7, May 7, 1996)

"The IDF must have sole responsibility for security in Hebron. We will not agree to divided responsibility, which would quickly bring disaster..."
 (Netanyahu, Knesset speech, September 7, 1995)

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NEWS IN FOCUS

The Jerusalem Post Friday, November 15, 1996

7

HEBRON: Scars on both sides of the divide

Death spewed forth in the dark



Shlomo Slonim, one year of age in the photo, is held close in the aftermath of the 1929 Hebron Massacre. A scar from the gash on his forehead remains today. (reprint by Sarit Uziel)

A survivor of the Goldstein massacre recalls the nightmare to Jon Immanuel

FAHRI Maswadi does not have memories of the massacre in the Haram al-Ibrahimi so much as brief moments of reprieve from memory. But even that is not strictly true. Frequently his wife wakes him in the middle of the night to ask why he screamed.

"I screamed?"
"Yes, she tells him, you shouted. 'Get out of here, get us out of here.'"

What he remembers clearly is the claustrophobia, and an explosion five minutes after the beginning of dawn prayers during Ramadan, on February 25, 1994. Some 800 people were in the mosque, 29 died and more than 200 were wounded. In the dark, "the building shook, then we heard shooting, automatic fire. I fell to the floor. Then it stopped. I thought it was over. I got up and it started again. I could not breathe."

Maswadi, a 50-year-old father of eight, could not breathe because a bullet punctured a fire extinguisher near him releasing carbon dioxide, he has subsequently learned. The gas, the cordite, the sound of bullets reverberating around the place of worship, tripping in the dark over inert bodies, slipping in pools of blood and on internal organs, injected Maswadi with a feeling of terror that won't go away.

Terror and loathing. With no conscious irony he describes how



Fahri Maswadi stands outside the Tomb of the Patriarchs. After surviving the trauma of the Ramadan 1994 massacre, he can no longer bring himself to worship there. (Hayef Hashlamoun)

people ran from the Tomb of the shared Patriarch Abraham to seek protection by the Tomb of the Patriarch Jacob, and then were trapped when they could not exit by Joseph's Gate. Maswadi heard shooting outside and also thought he heard shots coming from two different directions inside the prayer hall, but in retrospect understood that was probably caused by an echo.

Unlike subsequent Palestinian attacks, the shooting was the act of an individual. But because he was in IDF uniform with an IDF weapon, and because soldiers began shooting rioting Palestinians outside, and in the confusion blocked ambulances from certain exits, then slammed

curfews on the Palestinians while leaving the settlers in place. Moslem anger and predisposition welded into a conviction of IDF-settler solidarity.

The army and the Border Police do little to eradicate this impression. Last Wednesday they performed riot-control training in front of Joseph's Gate, leaping from jeeps, and adopting kneeling positions as they aimed automatic weapons at the exit which Maswadi says the army blocked off to worshippers fleeing Goldstein. "They do this often," Maswadi said.

He cannot bring himself to go into the mosque anymore, and has moved home. "I hate the sight of blood and I still see it on the car-

pets, the same carpets that have been cleaned."

Maswadi, who lived at the time in a house by Abner's Tomb opposite The Tomb of the Patriarchs, had gone to the mosque with his nine-year-old son, Karam. He was lucky. Neither was wounded. He saw death spew forth, but in the dark, he did not even see Dr. Baruch Goldstein firing, reloading and firing again.

Hamadi Muhtaseb, a 28-year-old accountant, saw even less. He was bending forward in prayer when a bullet struck him in the spine. He lost consciousness, and despite extensive physiotherapy, walks now, but only with crutches. His loss of consciousness at least

(Continued on Page 8)

Fears of 'another 1929'

The Jews of Hebron warn of slaughter. Herb Keinon spoke to a survivor of 1929

TARPAT.

It is a word repeated over and over like a steady drum beat by settlers in Hebron and Kiryat Arba when asked about redeployment, or about why they live where they live.

Tarpai.

It is not a word, but a Hebrew year: 5689. The Gregorian equivalent is 1929 — the year of the Arab riots in Mandatory Palestine, the year of the massacre of the Jewish community in Hebron.

Tarpai.

It colors everything for the Jews of Hebron, even 67 years later.

"If the IDF leaves the hills in Hebron, what you will have is *tarpai*," Noam Amon, the head of the settlement in Hebron, admitted Likud MK Gideon Ezra when the Knesset member visited the city last month. "The Arabs will once again come down and slaughter the Jews. It will be *tarpai*."

"This is Jewish property that belonged to Jews slaughtered in *tarpai*," said Kiryat Arba Local Council head Zvi Katzover following an attempt by Jews to make a claim on stores they say is Jewish property near the casbah. During this attempt to reclaim Jewish property, the Hebron settlement — referring to the massacre — issued a statement that quoted from Kings 1:21: "Did you kill and also take possession?"

"A massacre could transpire here within an hour," Hebron rabbi Moshe Levinger told members of the National Religious Party's central committee recently. "We saw what happened in *tarpai*."

Tarpai.

THE JEWS in Hebron — who live under veritable siege in harsh physical conditions — have submerged their present to lay claim to a distant past, to regain the glories of the city that was King David's capital, to be close to the tombs of the patriarchs and matriarchs buried there.

But it is not only antiquity that motivates them. More often than not, Hebron's Jews say they moved there fueled by a desire not to give Hebron's Arabs a prize for the massacre of 1929. For the Jews living in Hebron today, 1929 is as real as yes-

terday, and to move back into Hebron is to redeem those who were massacred. To now pull out is in their minds equivalent to saying the victims of 1929 died for nothing.

In one of the numerous demonstrations held in the city last month, a group of women held pictures of children killed or wounded in the 1929 massacre, when 67 Jews were killed, and more than 50 injured. One of those pictures was of a frightened-looking curly-haired boy with a deep gash on his forehead.

That boy, Shlomo Slonim, is today 68 and lives with his wife in Ra'anana. If the Jews of Hebron have the massacre etched into their minds, Slonim has it pounded into his mind, heart and body. His immediate family was killed in the massacre. In addition, he still carries the forehead scar caused by a blow taken to the head during the riots.

Slonim is the son of Eliezer Dan Slonim, one of the Jewish notables in Hebron. In addition to losing his father, Slonim also lost his mother, brother and maternal grandparents. A fifth-generation Hebronite, Slonim was one year old when the massacre took place.

"Ever since I can remember, I knew what happened," said Slonim, who was raised by a grandfather who survived the massacre, and then — when the grandfather died seven years later — by an aunt. His grandfather did not talk much about the events, "but I smelled something different. I knew my grandfather was not my father. I knew about what happened."

Switching to the third person, Slonim said: "For an infant to be in a house where a massacre is taking place, to hear the screams, it penetrates his brain. And then everything is gone, everybody is gone. This is not simple."

Twenty-three people were killed in the Slonim home, where some 70 people sought refuge. Many of the city's Jews thought the Slonim home would be a safe haven, since Eliezer Dan, a banker, was a member of the municipality and well known by the town's Arabs.

The 1929 riots began on August 23, about a week after a right-wing

(Continued on Page 8)

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Will she be America's first woman president?

New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman, who visited Israel this week, talks with Jennifer Friedlin



Governor Whitman: Fiscally savvy, she is known for her ability to tackle tough problems head on. (Debbie Taylor-Zimelman)

FIRST there was Geraldine Ferraro's vice-presidential bid. Then came the Year of the Woman and an unprecedented number of women gained seats in the US Congress.

Today, with an increasing number of American women breaking through the glass ceiling and taking on positions of power, there is one question that still remains: Is America ready to elect a female president?

New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman, a fiscally conservative, socially moderate Republican and the US's only woman governor, who this week paid a visit to Israel, has only one answer: Yes, absolutely, yes.

Does this mean the 50-year-old politician Whitman, a shining star in the Grand Old Party's post-election cloudy sky, has her sights set on the White House come the year 2000?

While she denies having ambitions beyond a second term as New Jersey's governor — her first term ends in 1997 — there is no doubt that the Republican party, which selected her to counter President Clinton's 1995 state-of-the-union address and considered her as a potential Bob Dole running mate, is watching Whitman, one of their most powerful and palatable representatives.

Unlike those in the far right's anti-abortion, anti-free international trade, anti-women and gays-in-the-military camp, Whitman, who is lauded for curbing New Jersey's income tax by 30 percent and creating 117,000 new jobs, stands for a more centrist, pragmatic, Rockefelleresque platform.

In addition to her fiscal savvy, she is known for her ability to tackle tough problems head on, her pro-choice stance, her belief that sexual orientation and gender should not keep a person from any job, including military positions, and her efforts to foster relationships with international partners.

Accompanied by a 100-member trade delegation of New Jersey businesspeople, Whitman, who is tall and blonde with a commanding presence, delivered the opening night's address at the Jerusalem Business Conference and spent six days touring Israel's cultural and historical sights.

"Israel is such an important trading partner because it's a gateway to the Middle East," says Whitman, noting that Israel is New Jersey's sixth largest trading partner, having imported nearly \$744 million worth of New Jersey's exports in 1995. Approximately 30 Israeli businesses are headquartered in the garden state.

Whitman, who decided not to visit the Hashmonean Tunnel due to possible political implications, prefers not to voice her opinion on highly charged issues such as

While critics take issue with Whitman for creating only a quarter of the 450,000 jobs she promised and for being an unapologetic millionaire, according to opinion polls more than 60% of New Jerseyans support her.

And, although Whitman's brand of liberal Republicanism may be scoffed at by the more extremist members of the GOP, she says the center is where the people are at and what many politicians on both the state and national levels are delivering.

As Congress cuts Federal support of state-run programs, she says many Republicans, namely mayors Rudolph Giuliani of New York and Brett Schundler of Jersey City (in New Jersey) are taking control of developing social service programs.

On the gubernatorial level she says her administration is reaching out to communities to develop programs based on what the people want, rather than what Congress determines they need.

And even though Bob Dole failed in his recent presidential election bid, Whitman finds proof of American support for the GOP. Besides the fact that Americans voted for a Republican Congress — the only time since 1928 that Republicans kept control of Congress in back-to-back elections — at the executive level President Clinton supported the Welfare Reform Act, which was a Republican-initiated piece of legislation.

In fact, Whitman says, Clinton's victory was a vote of confidence for the GOP's platform.

"People voted for Clinton because they didn't want to jeopardize anything," she says. "They are just making ends meet now. And the economy is growing, at an anemic rate, but it's growing."

"The voters did support the Republican ideas and ideology; they revoted for the House and Senate [and] the president moved himself so much to the center. When the Republicans came up with welfare reform he vetoed it twice and then signed it the third time and ran on it."

If what she says is accurate, her own positions seem right in time with the American people. So, what about the year 2000?

She insists she has no presidential aspirations, but then the final question is: Why not?



Director of the Bank of Israel Jacob Frenkel (right) chats with Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky at the Cairo Economic Conference. (AP)

Egypt sold itself in Cairo

Despite initial doubts about the success of the summit, participants are feeling positive about it. David Harris reports

FOR months before the conference, Israel's business community fell victim to the region's politicians. President Hosni Mubarak led a failed attempt to link the peace process with the Middle East North Africa economic summit — among the many threats to emanate from



Cairo was: "No Hebron withdrawal; no summit." However, despite the rhetoric, 3,500 delegates arrived in Cairo ready for Mubarak's opening address on Tuesday.

While welcoming the world's politicians, civil servants and business people, the president used the opportunity to sell his country's economic reform program and apparent recovery — a budget deficit of 1.2 percent of GDP in 1996, and 6% inflation predicted for next year, he proudly reported. "This year Egypt joined the world economy," he added.

Yet, traveling through Cairo's streets, where traffic causes a thick smog and where the city's 13 million inhabitants all seem intent on causing as much mayhem on the road as possible, one is painfully aware of the intense hardship and overwhelming poverty that envelops the vast majority of the population of this and every other Egyptian city, town and village.

While the Egyptian government has successfully sold more than 100 of its companies in recent years, the benefits are clearly not being reaped by the average Cairo inhabitant. It seems far more likely that the lion's share of the profits — economic and social — is split among Egypt's elite, including the dozens of impeccably attired businessmen attending their "home" conference.

Indeed, by the time the event itself commenced, even Foreign Minister David Levy, was calling the event "the Cairo conference." A week ago, Egypt's ambassador to Tel Aviv, Mohammed Bassiouny, said "This is no longer an economic summit, but an economic conference," everyone in the room realized that he accepted that Egypt would, in all likelihood, be the main beneficiary.

While Egypt is calling the "summit" a "conference," many have highlighted that the snubbing of the now-invited Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has acted as a put-down to the official government delegation from Jerusalem. But, at the same time, it gave Israel's businesspeople a green light to look for investment opportunities, joint ventures and new markets.

"This is now a business conference," said Manufacturers' Association president Dan Propper. "Business people can feel the potential. There's a real positive tension in the air, of people who know that they can find here potential partners." Yet there were also those in Cairo who saw that the Israelis did not seem to keen to turn it into something more tangible. "Look at all the Israelis congregating together," said one Egyptian official. "They must learn to mix."

But that is exactly what some, if not all, of the delegation came to Cairo to do.

"The advantage of the conference is that you are not working all the time," said Arka Medical managing director Barbara Faktor. "Having the same meeting [following the Casablanca and Amman summits] every year, with the same people and more, there will be very good progress." On the whole, Israel's business community received a warm welcome, and even where it was more reserved, Arab businesspeople seemed able to distinguish between Israeli politician and entrepreneur.

"There is no stability in Israel today," said Mohamed Rayan from the Egyptian Foreign Investment and Touristic Development Company. Looking to create a transportation corridor between Jordan, Israel and Egypt, Rayan is for now hunting only in Jordan for a strategic partner in the \$10 million project. But, adds Rayan, when the time is right politically, he will immediately look to Israel. "We will be happy to contact them. Economic cooperation is the best way forward."

Some foreign investors take a more pragmatic view. "Investments to me," said one,

"are about making money, not international borders. If I find what I'm looking for in Israel, or anywhere else for that matter, I'm ready to sign."

There are those who believe that everyone who participated in Cairo '96 is a winner, particularly in the long term. Josef Wassef owns the Heliopolis-based Fabulous Sportsweat. In his view those who came to do business and look at profits have to win. Those who stayed away can in no way benefit, said Minister of Economy and Trade Maher Masri. While he understands the decision of Palestinian businesspeople to stay away, he believes they are guilty of an error of judgment.

Koor managing director Beny Gaon is among those favoring the long-term approach. "Peace is a long-term investment," he said, "there are no winners or losers today, but at the end of the day, all those who participate in the peace process are going to win."

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Hospitals welcome complementary medicine

Alternative practices and folk remedies find a home in the health establishment, reports Wendy Elliman

PEOPLE today are living longer than ever before, but they aren't necessarily feeling better, and the very lifestyle that lengthens our life span is the culprit. We live in remorselessly stressful societies, with Israel among the most stressed on earth. Our diet is heavy on hormone-injected meat, devitalized white bread, and chemical-filled fruits and vegetables. And, we're healed by medical technologies that demand our dependence on medical technologies, and our relinquishing of home control for even minor ailments.

The pendulum started its swing back some 30 years ago with what then went by the name of "alternative" medicine, constituting an important part of the oscillation. At first largely the preserve of the faddish and the genuinely weird, the practice of alternative medicine has grown increasingly respectable over the years. Its very name changes - first to complementary medicine, and now to integrated or natural medicine - mark its changing status. Further proof that this approach has come of age is that it's now dispensed by MDs in university and general hospitals in North America, Europe and all over Israel.

Israel's first Department of Integrated Medicine opened at Assaf Harofeh Hospital in 1991, and treats up to 14,000 patients a year. "The hospital was very receptive when I proposed such a department," says its head, Dr. Shay Pintov. "The underlying idea was to gather all the different osteopathic medicine methods under a single roof - from the traditional folk practices, to accepted complementary techniques which extend normal therapeutic practice, to therapies that claim healing powers, but are still not scientifically based. It's part of a trend throughout the Western world: People today are increasingly aware of their own health, and tired of chemical medical solutions."

The Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical Center, in Jerusalem was another, early entrant in the field, opening its downtown Complementary Medicine Clinic in 1990 "as a result of popular demand," says its head, Dr. Martine Toledano. "There's a crowded market for this kind of medicine, with part of that crowd doing it major discredit by promising wonders and miracles. It was clear to us there was a place for the practice of complementary medicine by professional medical doctors."

Although the Hadassah clinic is staffed entirely by physicians, who assess biochemical test results and CT scans before deciding on treatment, most Jerusalem doctors were initially unwilling to refer their patients. "They didn't believe in what they couldn't explain scientifically," says Toledano. "But things have changed very rapidly and we now get referrals from hospitals and clinics all over the city. Today, most accept that the best way to practise medicine is by recognizing there are many ways to help a patient. Someone with severe headache, for example, can be treated for pain with a shot of Voltarin, with Chinese herbs, acupuncture or reflexology, depending on what's best for him. In short, complementary medicine adds therapeutic tools to the physician's arsenal."

The growth of complementary medical practice is a direct expression of public disillusion with conventional therapies, according to Professor Raphael Melmed, head of Behavioral Medicine at Hadassah in Ein Kerem. "In a typical situation, a patient comes to a doctor with a persistent complaint. He's sent for investigations and consultations in different departments. When there's no clear diagnosis, he tends to be regarded as a nuisance. His doctor, however, is under pressure to treat him, and he can thus become the unfortunate recipient of inappropriate responses from a frustrated physician or surgeon, at risk for procedures which carry high morbidity and even mortality."

Melmed's speciality of behavioral medicine is an important area of complementary medicine. It is of particular help, he says, in dealing with the tensions of illness, or life, situations which influence health. In essence, it helps patients regain a sense of control over stresses which they feel are out of control, and in so doing restores the equilibrium of living. In the US, over 400 universities now offer some level of behavioral medicine training. In Israel, different relaxation and stress-reduction techniques have been developed for a whole gamut of disorders - among them

headache, migraine, asthma, vascular disorders, hypertension, anxiety states, angina pectoris, diarrhea, ulcers, skin disorders and cancer.

IN ADDITION to clinical work, doctors are also anxious to understand how relaxation and other natural-medicine techniques work - to bring them in from the cold and into the mainstream of medical science. Investigation of the physiological and biochemical processes of illness have shown that changes occur in the cells in stressed individuals. The challenge is to make sense of them.

Research into hypnosis - a 5,000-year old practice accepted as a therapeutic technique by the American Medical Association only in 1958 - has found evidence that cellular changes take place in the body, alongside attitude changes. A California surgeon, Dr. Peter Mutke, even claims hypnosis stimulated cellular growth in the breasts of 20 women who came to him in search of larger mammary glands. Acupuncture is believed to work by making the body release greater amounts of natural painkilling hormones known as endorphins.

Research into natural and folk-healing techniques is a growing field worldwide. Israel's first and so far only academic research unit in this area is the Natural Medicine Research Unit (NMRU) that opened at Hadassah two years ago, under British-born physician Dr. Sarah Sallon. "Traditional medicine systems are a potential treasure house," she says. "Many traditional medicines work as well or better than conventional ones, but their recipes are incomprehensible in the West because they're not written in the language of modern science. Disciplines like yoga and tai chi are more than exercise regimens: They're mind-body empowerment techniques that have developed in the East over thousands of years."

The NMRU's job is to validate and, if possible, explain natural therapies and disciplines that can improve health. Its scientists are

testing honey and propolis produced by bees on special diets, to develop an ointment that heals human burns and ulcers. They've recently completed a controlled scientific study of the efficacy of an ancient Tibetan plant recipe in unclogging painful arteries in elderly legs - a study which brought the Dalai Lama himself to Hadassah in a show of support.

A joint NMRU-Canada study is now under way, examining the possible healing properties of some 500 different kinds of seaweed. And a six-month study of mind-body disciplines, such as yoga and tai chi ended this summer. Forty courses from high-stress units in Hadassah and a number of senior administrators took part. They reported important and sometimes dramatic improvement, in sleeping, in reduction of backpain, less stress at work and at home, and general wellbeing. Some even gave up smoking.

At the request of Hadassah's Nursing Administration, the NMRU is continuing courses for nurses; the Unit is also planning others in tai chi, chiung and shiatsu for midwives, women in labor and oocology patients, to see whether these disciplines help both prevent certain diseases and assist in the management of disease entities.

Another major project currently under way is the design of an innovative database of the Middle East's medicinal plants, in conjunction with Israel's National Herbarium. Listing plants and herbs from the healing traditions of Jews, Beduin and Druse, the unit plans, funding permitting, to interview traditional healers from the Jewish and Arab communities. As Sallon points out, some of the best of modern drugs come from similar sources: digitalis from foxgloves, aspirin from the willow, opiates from poppies and vincristine from the Madagascar periwinkle plant.

Integrated or natural medicine, claim its enthusiasts, has a major role to play in mediating the paces of progress. Its emphasis on mind-body control and relaxation can answer to the relentless stress of post-industrial living. Its insistence on healthy non-processed foods speaks for itself. And the way in which it re-empowers the patient in his own healing and gives him a greater role in safeguarding his own well-being already takes him several steps along the pathway to good health.



Nurses from high-stress units at Hadassah relax in a yoga class. (Karen Bezzian)

'Your body can look after itself'

THE women are lying on mattresses, breathing deeply. "Look inside yourself," encourages yoga teacher Diane Bloomfield. "Turn your mind to your inner world, to that infinite source of energy that nurtures you. Focus on what's happening inside your body at this moment."

Most focused of them all, most flexible and most adept at the more complicated movements is a woman aged 77. Louise Gartner is visiting from Dallas, Texas, and she's joined the class because she's funding the NMRU's research into yoga and tai chi; in its second year. Slender, elegant and unmistakably Texan, Gartner's life passion is natural medicine.

"I've done yoga daily for 50 years," she says. "I read an article about a famous yogi in *Life* magazine, and went across to Mexico to study with her. In 1947, I started a daily yoga class in the Pageboy Maternity factory, where I was a designer for 26 years. It was an unusual thing at that time and in that place."

Gartner read about Dr. Sarah Sallon's work in *The Texas Jewish Post* last year, and got in touch with her. "She's my catalyst," says Gartner. "I want to help her unit's research, because doctors want evidence before they'll believe anything. So I'm going to help her get the evidence, even though I know that it's there."

Among Gartner's plans is supporting the introduction of natural-medicine courses at medical schools both at Hadassah and in Texas. "Medical schools concentrate too heavily on teaching their students how to get someone well when they're critically ill," she says. "I think we should learn from the ancient Chinese, that a doctor's more important job is to maintain health. And you do that by treating the body right. Nutrition, she maintains, is the basis of it all. Once I learned about vitamin C, my children never had antibiotics again!"

"I firmly believe if you eat right from the time you're a child, you build your body strong, and then, if you keep it strong, it can look after itself." W. E.

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After the destruction of the Second Temple, the Jewish people were confronted with the question - to be or not to be. At Yavne, Rabban Yohanan and Rabban Gamliel and their disciples chose to be. Their efforts placed Judaism on a renewed path - this time without the Temple. Fulfillment of the mitzvot, the centrality of the Beit Midrash, belief in the world to come and in future redemption became the focus of Judaism. Shorashim, together with The Jerusalem Post, invites you to an English-speaking seminar on The World of the Sages (Haza). With renowned lecturers Prof. Albert Baumgarten and Dr. David Satran and archeologists and guides Moti Aviam and Yoni Shapiro, we'll immerse ourselves in the sources and the sites. We'll spend three days studying the sources and visiting the ancient synagogues of Hamel Tveriya and Kfar Nahum and the excavations of Beit Shearim, Zippori, Caesarea and Tiberias. We'll stay at the Kibbutz Lavi Hotel in the Galilee. The dates: Thursday, November 21 - Saturday, November 23. The price: NIS 980. Includes transportation from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and return, lectures and discussions, entrance to all sites with on-the-spot explanations, accommodation at the Hotel Kibbutz Lavi (sharing a double room), full board from Thursday evening until after Shabbat. Pickup and drop off along the route where possible and arranged beforehand.

For reservations and further information: SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074. Tel. 02-5666231 (9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.). Ask for Romit, Tami or Varda.

Israel gets the brush-off at US Jewish federations meet

US Jewish fundraisers gave Israel short shrift at their conference this week. Marilyn Henry reports from Seattle that the assembly made a polite job of glossing over its differences

A bomb scare cut short the opening session Wednesday night of the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations. That may have been the single moment of excitement of the sluggish, four-day event. Some 3,000 lay and professional leaders from American fund-raising agencies converged on this Pacific Northwest city for an assembly that is considered the highlight of the Jewish communal year. Not this year. "There's a malaise," said Sandi Goldstein of the Los Angeles federation. So when Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu canceled his personal appearance - scheduled for last night - to attend to the Hebrew talks, it simply deflated an already numb agenda. The assembly, which was shy of compelling issues, also seemed to give Israel short shrift. That was

startling, given that federations are the main link between most American Jews and Israel. The Jewish Agency, the vaunted partner of the American fund-raising agencies, was a wallflower in Seattle. Agency head Abraham Burg was not scheduled to be part of last night's main event, the international plenary. Instead, Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav was scheduled to make a presentation on the Israel Experience. And, to add insult to injury, Burg was con-

signed to delivering "remarks" at the assembly's opening - which then were canceled by the bomb scare. The hottest issue was proposed legislation barring Reform and Conservative conversions in Israel. However, that was dispensed with in a short, cordial debate at a meeting Wednesday of the board of delegates. The board approved a resolution urging the Netanyahu government to abstain from legislation that

would change any aspect of the Law of Return or the "current situation." There was some minor tussling about the language - and punctuation - of the resolution, but there was no passionate debate about the significance of the legislation, or whether this topic was even within the council's domain. It was as if everyone decided to behave themselves once the board meeting was called to order; despite days of backstairs debates about whether this would be a rerun of the 1988 "Who is a Jew" imbroglio. And they glossed over the question of whether it should be treated as an internal Israeli matter, or one that should engage the 189 autonomous federations of North American Jewry, whose primary purpose is fund-raising.

When the council's board did address the legislation, the mood - like much of the rest of the assembly - was resigned. The legislation likely "will happen, notwithstanding what we may do today," David Minkov, an Atlanta attorney who leads a council panel on religious pluralism, told delegates before the vote. The overall lack of attention to Israel has been growing steadily for a number of years, according to veterans of CIF assemblies. Last

year, much of the "Israel" component was devoted to mourning prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, sandwiched between events on fund-raising and Jewish spirituality. But the absence of a clear Israel agenda does not mean the community is concentrating its attention elsewhere. The various segments of the community each face their own internal dilemmas. The federation world is struggling to maintain local social services amid budget cuts at the US federal level, while fund-raising is only now starting to emerge from a years-long slump. Federations also are trying unskillfully to work out a modus vivendi for the different streams of Judaism, which are demanding a greater voice in federation decisions - even though they can't agree with each other. Within the religious streams, there is ferment. There are battles for the souls of the Orthodox and Conservative movements, which are feeling pressure from both the left and right within their ranks. Perhaps the hottest cauldron is the Reform movement, which has undergone a seismic generational shift in leadership. Reform ultimately may take the biggest drubbing for leading the campaign among American Jews against the conversion legislation. Some have suggested that the Reform movement's push for civil rights in Israel may collide with its commitment to democracy. "These Americans love their democracy even more than pluralism," said one bemused Israeli observer here. "Israel is also a democracy. Are they going to say that democracy is fine, except when it gives the haredim power?"

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Who needs economic summits?

THIS week has seen two major economic conferences, one in Jerusalem and one in Cairo...

GUEST COLUMNIST PINHAS LANDAU

The plethora of economic events inevitably raises a basic question in many minds: Do these events have any useful purpose...

political and business agendas. In general, mega-conferences have a high degree of political input...

A business agenda is usually much more down-to-earth and focused on *tachles*. To businessmen, a conference can serve as an ice-breaker...

some things for which there is no substitute for direct contact and first-hand, subjective experience...

Dry Bones



Humaneness crippled

What the law does not forbid, let shame forbid. Agamemnon to Pyrrhus in Seneca's The Trojan Women, line 334.

A VIEW FROM NOV MOSHE KOHN

Wish, and the king asked for the golden touch. Later, Midas decided a musical contest between the god Apollo and the satyr Marsyas...

The euphemism the Torah uses in relating the Noah episode (Genesis 9:18-23) is *erwa*. This means simply 'nakedness'...

(Tea-tee-heel giggle-giggle...) No one - not Gil Kofech, not even Shulamit Aloni or Yossi Sarid - surpasses the Torah and the rest of the Tanach...

Time running out for Hanukka donations

THERE'S only three weeks left before Hanukka, and we are running out of time. This past week, our liaison at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare met with us to discuss Hanukka allocations...

FunDS BEVERLEE BLACK honor of the 90th birthday of Lotte Markus - Audrey and Harvey Scher, J'im. Renate and Izhak Uma, Haifa...

NIS 100 in memory of my husband, Shimon - Rachel Shabirsky, Haifa. In honor of the 90th birthday of Lotte Markus - Audrey and Harvey Scher, J'im. Renate and Izhak Uma, Haifa...

Esau, the true deceiver

'Isaac trembled a great trembling and said: 'Who then is he that has taken venison and brought it to me, and I have eaten of all before you came, and I have blessed him? Moreover, he shall be blessed.' (Gen. 27:33)

SHABBAT SHALOM SHLOMO RISKIN

THE speaker is Isaac. Jacob, who entered his father's tent garbed in goatskins and Esau's garments, has pretended to be Isaac in order to trick his father into giving him the blessing due to his older brother...

any of the entanglements between Jacob and Esau unfolded, the Torah has clearly defined the vast differences between these two brothers: 'And the boys grew, and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field, and Jacob was a simple man, dwelling in tents' (Gen. 25:27)...

But Rebecca sees the world - and Esau - with different eyes. First of all, God Himself (as it were) had told her that two nations were in her womb, and that the elder would serve the younger...

FORSAKE ME NOT

NIS 1,000 Anon. NIS 500 Anon., Petah Tikva. Anon. Ra'anana. NIS 900 in loving memory of Asher Wolfish - Claude Wolfish, Mevasseret Zion, Ruth Egell, Tel Aviv...

TOY FUND

NIS 500 Contributed by the 'Ma'aleh Adunim Connector' in the name of the residence of Ma'aleh Adunim. NIS 300 Ruth Egell, Tel Aviv. To celebrate my becoming a citizen - Georgina Yacobi, Tel Aviv...

WELCOME HOME FUND

NIS 300 Ruth Egell, Tel Aviv. NIS 100 in honor of becoming a citizen - Georgina Yacobi, Tel Aviv. In honor of the 90th birthday of Lotte Markus - Audrey and Harvey Scher, J'im. Elaine Kallet, J'im...

Israel's own agony aunt has the answers. Dear Ruthie, I miss reading Dear Abby. What should I do? Dear Ruthie, What should I do? I have a serious problem that I feel only Marge Proops could handle. Any advice? Dear Ruthie, How can I explain to my relatives abroad what life is REALLY like here? ANSWER: BUY 'DEAR RUTHIE' JP Price NIS 35

Accused and accusee dine together

ALL'S FAIR in love and war—and politics falls into the latter category. But it's really hitting below the belt to file charges against someone with whom one shares a dinner table. Labor MK Ofer Pines has joined the witch-hunt against Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert. Pines, who was seated a couple of chairs away from Olmert at last week's gala dinner hosted by the Jerusalem Economic Forum, has filed charges against Olmert for allegedly using city funds to promote Likud party interests at the Sacher Park festivities at the close of the Jerusalem March. Curiously, fellow Laborite Amos Mar-Haim, who heads the opposition faction at City Hall, did not see fit to report Olmert to the police. But then again Mar-Haim and the aggressively ambitious Pines do not necessarily have the same agenda.

THE FOOD on the grooming buffet tables was different from the usual fare at local gatherings. It was neither North African nor East European. The cuisine was mainly Filipino because the hostess, Montie Salpeter, who heads the Organization for the Protection of Property Rights, is a veteran immigrant from the Philippines who is married to an Israeli. Salpeter's Tel Aviv apartment was filled last Friday by a large crowd of diplomats' wives, medical practitioners, businesswomen and students whose common language is English and whose common background is Asian.

Sugi Sakow, a Malaysian of Indian background who worked as a secretary before she married French diplomat Kosta Sakow, was hopeful that her country would soon open a diplomatic mission in Israel, because "Israel is such a beautiful country." Dr. Qian Chun-Yi, who

specializes in Chinese medicine, Chinese herbology and acupuncture, works at the Sheba Medical Center. Another member of the medical profession was general surgeon Maria Concepcion A. Ortillo from the Philippines. Sanchita De from India has a master's degree in commerce, but so far has been unable to secure an Israeli work permit. She is here with her husband, who is studying for an MBA in Tel Aviv. Leiko Uchiyama of Japan, who is married to a British diplomat, is currently working as a liaison between the Japanese Embassy and the organizers of the Israel Festival to bring a large delegation of Japanese journalists to cover the event next year. Also present was Phyu Phyu Nyunt, wife of Myanmar ambassador U Lu Maw. The only naive Israeli was Vivian Gal, born to an Israeli mother and a Filipino diplomat father. Gal, who grew up in the Philippines and Burma, has an MBA and works for a software company. Married to Dror, an Israeli studying business administration, she feels more at home here than abroad.

THE GOLDEN age of Spain. To celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Madrid Conference which set the ball rolling for the Middle East peace process, Spanish Ambassador Miguel Angel Moratinos invited some of the key players to a festive dinner at his Herzliya Pines home. Among those present were Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, Hassan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinians, Faisal Husseini, the Jerusalem-based representative of the Palestinian Authority, Egyptian ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny and others.

SUCCESSFUL HEART surgery is as good a reason as any to celebrate.

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN



Natan Sharansky has been invited to Michael Milken's seminar here next week.

and Nora Kroll, wife of Austrian Ambassador Dr. Herbert Kroll, combined this with a welcome luncheon in her elegant home for the wives of recently arrived diplomats, in particular Maschen Land of South Africa and Dorthe Damgaard Steen of Denmark. But the main attraction was healer and tarot-card reader Dorit Carasso, who three years ago gave up her job as head of the Finance Department of Anzei Zahav to devote more time to mysticism.

Carasso offered to do some short-term complimentary readings and first off the mark was Nagwa Bassiouny, wife of Egyptian ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny, followed by Sandy Rogers, wife of Australian ambassador Peter Rogers. They and several others who were given readings confirmed

that Carasso knows her stuff. "I asked her a good question and she gave me a good answer," said Bassiouny.

A SLIGHTLY different theory of relativity, Felix de Marez Oyens, director of Christie's Book Department, was less than subtle at a reception for the opening of the exhibit at the Hebrew University's Givat Ram campus of the Einstein family correspondence which is to be auctioned in New York on November 25. Oyens commented how fitting it would be if these items were to be auctioned in New York which Albert Einstein himself bequeathed to the university. Well, in 10 days we'll know if anyone took the hint.

BECAUSE THE Knesset Speaker does not have special premises in which to entertain large delegations of guests, and because the home of Dan and Ludmilla Tichon is too small to accommodate even half the 76-member Israel Bonds women's division delegation which is in Israel this week, Ludmilla Tichon asked two of her good friends with large homes to help out. Devora Rejwan and Shlomit Molcho were more than happy to oblige, and invited other friends to come as well, while Tichon shuttled from one house to the other.

SEVERAL representatives of the Israel offices of American Jewish organizations speculated on Wednesday night whether it was a good sign or a bad sign that US Ambassador Martin Indyk was present at the reception held by Jordanian Ambassador Omar Rifai and his wife Anoud to celebrate King Hussein's 61st birthday. Indyk took time out from hosting Israeli-Palestinian negotiations to join the

hundreds of guests who conveyed greetings to the king via Jordan's envoys. Early arrivals were President Ezer Weizman and former president Yitzhak Navon, each of whom had to return to Jerusalem to attend the special tribute to Robin Academy founder and former dancer Hasmia Levy Agnon.

The Tel Aviv Hilton baked a huge complimentary birthday cake, complete with the royal coat of arms and decorated with marzipan roses. The cake was displayed beneath a large portrait of the king, which was flanked on one side by the Jordanian flag and on the other by a large floral arrangement tied with gold ribbon. Motti Veres, the Hilton's PR manager, was on tenterhooks. His wife Debbie had presented him with twins three days earlier and the obligations of his job were keeping him away from his new offspring.

MICHAEL MILKEN, who spent two years in prison for violating US security laws, will next week host Netanyahu and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky at a Milken Institute seminar on Israel's economy. Milken, who has worked hard at rehabilitating himself since his release from prison four years ago, has been a significant investor in Israel Bonds and a generous donor to Israel causes.

WHAT'S IN a name? A \$200,000 insult if it happens to be Yosef Buchmann. The well-known philanthropist whose gifts to and investments in Israel come to millions of dollars, became unwittingly involved in a ridiculous imbroglio simply because he agreed to underwrite the cost of the Yitzhak Rabin memorial monument in Tel Aviv. When approached by David Altman, chairman of the Tel Aviv Development Foundation, Buchmann, who considered Rabin a personal friend, readily agreed. Buchmann did not ask for his name to be linked in perpetuity with that of Rabin's, but the Tel Aviv powers that be had other ideas and put up a sign naming him as the donor. Protests from some quarters prompted Tel Aviv mayor Roni Milo to order the removal of all names related to the monument including those of the designer and the executor. Buchmann might not be miffed if the whole thing had been done quietly, but the issue became explosive when rumors again began flying about the sources of Buchmann's vast earnings in Germany. Buchmann is fed up with having to prove his credentials to those seeking to tarnish his image.

As of next week, Grapevine will be published twice a week, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Unholy violence returns religiously

THE WEEK THAT WAS
MICHAL YUDELMAN



LAST week it was comedian Gil Kopyach who was metaphorically put up against a wall by haredi and religious Knesset members for daring to read Torah portions on television and interpret them himself. This week the Wall itself became an issue. Indeed the prayer square of the Western Wall turned into a battlefield as the religiously violent again assaulted women, praying women in fact.

Some 80 members of the Women of the Wall, who have been fighting for years for the right to pray in their way at the Wall, came to exercise their right. When three or four of them donned kippot, haredi men watching from their section began shouting such unholy abuse as "bitches" and "Nazis," as well as spitting and throwing chairs and other objects at the women.

A large force of policemen rushed to the scene and swept the women off to the parking lot. The husband of one of the women was arrested for trying to prevent a haredi from throwing a chair at the women. Not one of the attacking haredim was arrested. "Too many people praying," said a police spokesman afterwards, adding that the police were "trying to trace the aggressors." "I cannot understand why the police drove away the victims rather than the assaulters," said Jerusalem councillor Anat Hoffman, who is also a member of the women's group.

The 110 Women of the Wall are mostly Orthodox, except for two from the Reform and six from the Conservative streams. They demand the right to pray at the Wall with kippa, tallit and prayer book. They also want to blow the shofar and read the Torah aloud, and over the past eight years have prayed at the Wall 100 times, while fighting a legal battle for their right to do so. The High Court of Justice in 1989 ruled that women have a right to pray there, but did not detail how they should do so.

In 1993 the women rejected the offer of alternative prayer sites as an odd irrelevancy, since they can pray anywhere they like anyway, and that wasn't the point. "The High Court ruled we have a right to pray at the Wall. Alternative sites are irrelevant since we could pray anywhere anyway without a court ruling," said Hoffman. "We want to pray at the Wall. This is possible if we are allocated a corner and a time to do so. We dress modestly and pray in the Orthodox manner, so we're not trying to cause a provocation." Hoffman said "there is no halachic ruling forbidding women from wearing a tallit. It's my right to pray out loud, and sing at the Wall, just as the men do."

"The haredim have no monopoly on the Western Wall, and it is unthinkable to let haredi thugs and hoodlums dictate rules of prayer by violent means," she said that in the past six years the women have been praying at the Wall and singing loudly, no one seemed bothered by it.

The day after the incident, the Knesset Committee for the Status of Women, headed by MK Ya'el Dayan, faced a torrent of haredi abuse, curses and vilifications when it visited the women's section of the Wall to investigate the women's difficulties and seek a solution. Among those screaming at the parliamentary committee was none other than a government deputy minister, Yigal Bibi of the National Religious Party. While Dayan was trying to speak to the press, Bibi yelled: "You have no rights. You have no rights here!"

Another deputy of the religious affairs minister, Aryeh Gamliel of Shas, said the women's act was provocation and that in law anyone "holding a religious ceremony at

No one heard a peep from Limor Livnat after this week's Women of the Wall incident.

the Wall which hurts others' feelings is liable to a year in prison." Some MKs wondered where were those stalwart champions of women's rights Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Likud MK Na'omi Blumenthal. At least they used to be women's champions up to the elections, since when they have vanished. Their voices were two, at least, that were not heard at the Wall. Neither did they utter a peep when Dayan was attacked with boiling tea on an official Knesset visit to Hebron two weeks ago.

LABORED BREATHING. It's not just the silence of the lady lambs. Even more MKs were asking where has the Labor Party vanished as national morale sinks to an all-time low. A public-opinion poll conducted by Panorama Marketing this week revealed the nation to be suffering from collective depression. Some 60 percent fear war will break out; 60 percent fear for the very future of the state; and 70 percent feel they are living in an atmosphere of depression or crisis.

Well, if you must know, Labor is girding itself for battle. No, not to win public opinion or defeat a particularly pathetic government. Labor is getting ready to do battle with itself - like a famous sketch of John Cleese climbing into a ring to wrestle with and defeat himself.

MK Ehud Barak, the favorite to be next party leader, is eager to have the leadership showdown as soon as possible, preferably before the party convention next spring, or at the same time. But party chairman Shimon Peres and MKs Haim Ramon, Ephraim Sneh and Uzi Baran want the convention held before primaries. In fact, they're not sure they want primaries at all in the next couple of years. Sneh, Ramon and Baran are also potential candidates for the No. 1 Labor slot, though only Sneh has publicly said so.

Barak, the war hero and former chief of staff, will be facing his first major party battle at the central committee meeting due at the end of the month. Peres may never win a national election, say his supporters, but he has never lost a battle in the central committee. But Barak's supporters point out that Peres has ruled himself out of another leadership race and, since party bosses and activists are politically pragmatic, they won't be allying themselves with the leader of the past against a leader of the future.

Barak convened his camp leaders - MKs Avraham Shohat, Micha Goldman, Yossi Katz and Ra'anan Cohen - one night in a Jerusalem hotel. They agreed to be "flexible" on the date of the leadership contest, as long as it is held no later than June 3, a few weeks after the convention.

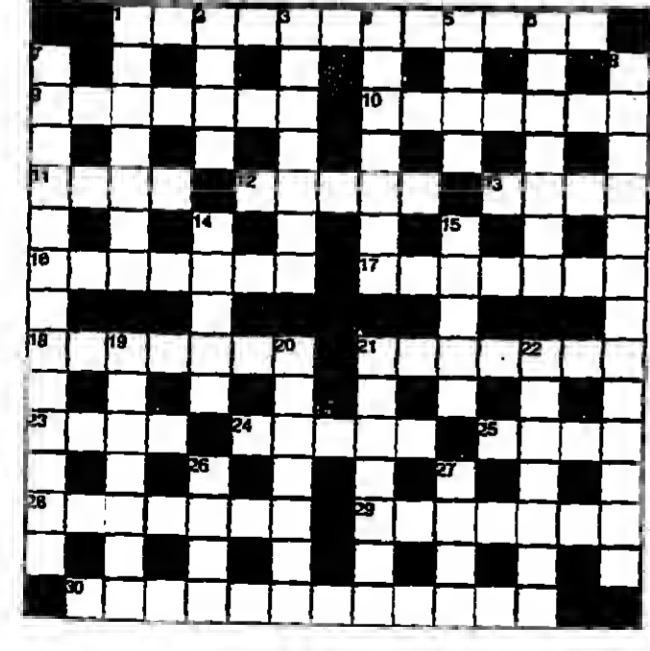
SRULIK

by DOSH



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bounty from north, happily distributed (12)
 - 9 Soldiers, with prospect of new life, make free (7)
 - 10 Table displaying dish topped with gold (7)
 - 11 Solid business (4)
 - 12 Cold sovereign? (5)
 - 13 Sawyer's mate, fellow opening pub (4)
 - 16 Huge chaps, semi-trained outside (7)
 - 17 Pride of one in best suit, going to hospital? (7)
 - 18 Time's up, in a way, for catalyst (7)
 - 21 Sitting-bower? (7)
 - 23 Look left twice and lean against lamp-post, perhaps (4)
 - 24 Father confess and make headlines? (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Most of tablet horrible for the crusader (7)
 - 2 Outbreak of rain in the country (4)
 - 3 Fish and beer—the better half? (7)
 - 4 On a sailing-ship salute takes an afternoon? (7)
 - 5 Back up and bring up (4)
 - 6 Fee for umpire turning out to begin match? (7)
 - 7 Dealing with Cook, perhaps, to provide a refuge for pedestrians (7,6)
 - 8 But nettles can break out and cause a reversal! (4,3,6)
 - 14 Uses needles to make one row upside down (5)
 - 15 Football team's bad player (not at home) (5)
 - 19 Head allowed in to see range of colours (7)
 - 20 Shri! cry, finding rock fragments by church (7)
 - 21 Primrose from Hereford's border? (7)
 - 22 Be disposed to tip? (7)
 - 26 Some serve up gin (4)
 - 27 Silver-headed painter of Indian city (4)



SOLUTIONS

ACROSS	12	10	11	13																		
DOWN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27

Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Quetzal, 7 Thrush, 8 Avalanche, 9 Rot, 10 Toga, 11 Alaska, 13 Velgen, 14 Crabby, 17 Reason, 18 Boom, 20 Use, 22 Setaminea, 23 Usual, 24 Cashmere.

DOWN: 1 Quartz, 2 Evangal, 3 Teak, 4 Oozit, 5 Hydras, 6 Dostoy, 7 Tessera, 12 Cornmeal, 13 Yacomet, 15 Browale, 18 Contra, 17 Ramua, 19 Mire, 21 Amah.



- QUICK CROSSWORD**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Distance down (5)
 - 4 Better ventilated (6)
 - 9 Characteristic (7)
 - 10 Defect, flaw (5)
 - 11 Ready money (4)
 - 12 Against (7)
 - 13 Tibetan ox (3)
 - 14 Threesome (4)
 - 16 Per head (4)
 - 18 Sailor (3)
 - 20 Delete (7)
 - 21 Healthy and strong (4)
 - 24 Motif (5)
 - 25 Apostate (7)
 - 26 Fake (5)
 - 27 Throng (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Disengage separate (6)
 - 2 Famous diarist (5)
 - 3 German wine (4)
 - 5 Trepasser (8)
 - 6 Stupid (7)
 - 7 Answer (6)
 - 8 Courage (5)
 - 13 Least advanced in age (8)
 - 15 Keep under control (7)
 - 17 Mild, compassionate (6)
 - 18 Irritable (5)
 - 19 Eddic (5)
 - 22 Change (5)
 - 23 Impetuous (4)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, November 15, 1996

13

Government: Share of 'poor' families in population down

THE proportion of poor families in the general population declined for the first time in six years, according to the government's definition of poverty. It dropped to 16.8 percent in 1995 from 18 percent the previous year, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai said at a press conference in Jerusalem yesterday.

In real terms, however, last year's figures - 208,000 families - are higher - by 3,000 - than they were in 1994. The total number of "poor" individuals stood last year at 738,000 people, of whom 329,000 were children. Yishai said he preferred not to bask in the relative decline, noting that the figures were still high. "There is no reason for celebration here," he said. The government's findings are based on a survey conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The study also

included, for the first time, Arab settlements of at least 2,000 inhabitants.

The sharpest decline in poverty was detected among single-parent families, from 36.8% to 25.7%. Among new immigrants, poverty declined last year by 2%, while the percent of non-Jewish families which were poor declined from 38.5% to 31.2%.

The survey also showed that Israel's poorest cities are Bnei Brak, Jerusalem and Beer Sheva. Labor and Meretz politicians interpreted the report's findings as vindication that the previous government's policy of handsomely financing an expanded social safety-net was

prudent and effective.

"The report proves that the Labor government's socioeconomic policies were correct and wise, since they resulted in a reduction of Israel's poverty rate," Labor party secretary-general Nissim Zivli said.

Meretz faction chairman Haim Oron said the report should be seen "as a badge of honor" for the previous government. In contrast, he said, the current government's budget-cut plans threaten to offset much of its predecessors' social achievements, since they include reduced welfare services and children's allowances.

"The report indicates clearly that budget transfers, the national-health law and Israel's progressive taxation system were the main reasons for the improvement in the poor's financial situation, according to Oron.

Jerusalem Post staff

Draft indictment: Ofer received UMB data illegally

THE Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office has reportedly completed a draft charge sheet against businessman Yuli Ofer on suspicion that he illegally bought information regarding United Mizrahi Bank's taxation condition from a former *Globes* journalist in 1994, when the bank, Israel's fourth largest, was tendered out for private bidders.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The alleged suspicions were first brought to light shortly after the Ofer-Wertheim consortium submitted a bid to gain the controlling interest in the bank. As a result, the Bank of Israel's supervisor of banks held up the sale until the case was reviewed. The Bank of Israel found that

the information economic journalist Doron Rosensweig sold did not provide Ofer with an advantage over the competition in the sales process. The bank was sold to the Ofer-Wertheim group at the end of November, 1994.

After the sale, the State Attorney's Office continued to investigate whether the purchase of the information was legal. About three months ago, the District Attorney's Office decided to charge Ofer, a business source said.

The District Attorney's Office also intends to file a charge against Rosensweig for selling stolen confidential documents.

"The District Attorney's Office is still handling the files," a spokesperson for the Justice Ministry said yesterday.

The *Ha'aretz* daily reported yesterday that the draft charge sheet alleges that Rosensweig received confidential bank documents stolen by one of the bank's employees. *Ha'aretz* reported that the documents were made up of two booklets. The first included computer printouts from August 18, 1991, of information taken from Mizrahi's accounting division and intended for internal bank decisions. The documents included names of customers and their financial situation. The second booklet contained information and documents on Mizrahi subsidiary, the Mizrahi Trust company.

The draft charge sheet, according to *Ha'aretz*, says that Rosensweig sold the documents to Ofer for \$15,000 on October 4, 1994, two days before the deadline to submit bids to participate in the tender for the purchase of Bank Mizrahi. Rosensweig told Ofer that the information included in the documents would help him decide whether to purchase the bank and at what price.

The District Attorney's Office claims both Rosensweig and Ofer knew the documents were stolen, *Ha'aretz* reported.

A spokesperson for Ofer said, "We refuse to comment on the issue."

Ofer, whose interests range from shipping to real estate and industry, is a major shareholder in several public companies including Kvalim, Melisron, Ofer Brothers, Coral Beach and Magor.



Super-Sol displays a diamond necklace inside by Chaumet in 1935 also valued at \$225,000 to \$280,000, and a sapphire and diamond bow brooch valued at \$400,000 to \$500,000, during a presentation in Lansanne yesterday. They will be auctioned off by Sotheby's in Geneva on Wednesday.

Super-Sol profits up 20%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Super-Sol supermarket chain ended the third quarter of 1996 with a net profit of NIS 28.6m, compared with a net profit of NIS 23.13m in the same period last year. In the first nine months of the year net profits rose to NIS 73.7m, compared with NIS 60.8m. At the end of the reported period, the Petah Tikva-based supermarket chain had 70 stores and seven chains.

Agan, the Ashdod-based chemical producer, reported a 45 percent growth in net profits for the third quarter of 1996, to NIS 12.9 million compared with NIS 8.9m. in the corresponding period last year.

Net profits in the first nine months of the year rose to NIS 67.6m, compared with NIS 62.6m. The third quarter results include the inclusion of new subsidiaries in Brazil, Spain and Argentina.

Agan management said it intends to increase its activities in South America over the next few years.

Sales in the third quarter grew to NIS 178.1m, compared with NIS 134.8m. In the same period last year. In the nine-month period sales rose 16.7% to NIS 629.2m.

Kitan, the troubled textiles producer, posted a net loss of NIS 8.8m. In the third quarter of the year compared with a net profit of NIS 13.6m. in the corresponding period last year. The losses were mainly due to a drop in earnings as well as expenses of NIS 19m. resulting from the closure of its Beit She'an textile finishing division.

In the reported period, revenues grew 19% to NIS 206m. The rise was due to the merger of Gibor Sabrina's results with that of Kitan's. Kitan purchased controlling interest in Gibor in July.

BITS AND BYTES

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Bird Foundation approves two projects: The Trilateral Industrial Development fund of the Israel-US Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation, designed to help US, Israeli and Jordanian businesses initiate joint ventures, has selected two projects for investments totaling \$600,000 to \$1 million. Computer & Communication Systems (Jordan), Learning Labs (US) and Degem/Edusoft (Israel) will take part in one venture and Technology Group Affiliated (Jordan), Caere (US), and Shomut Probabilistic Solutions (Israel) will participate in the other.

Evergreen to host high-tech conference: Israel's Evergreen and American investment bank Robertson Stevens will host a conference on the international financial markets' influence relationship to Israel's high-tech industry on November 18-19. For more information, call (03) 696-6262.

Indigo introduces new press server: Indigo of the Netherlands (Nasdaq: INDGF) recently announced that it will soon release Electronics for Imaging, a new fiery color server for the Indigo E-Print 1000+ Digital Offset Color press. Indigo claims that the linkage between the two accelerates the production of multi-page printed products, allowing for the printing of 2,000 letter-size four-color pages per hour.

Lucent Technologies to expand Egypt's telecom network: Lucent Technologies Inc. (NYSE: LUC) recently announced that it has agreed to help the Egyptian National Telecommunications Organizations to expand Egypt's telecommunications network. Lucent, a New Jersey-based company, said they will add five million lines in five years.

NICE Systems introduces new products: Tel Aviv-based NICE Systems Ltd. (Nasdaq: NICEY) has announced the introduction of NiceFax, a complete fax management system that enables organizations to log and retrieve all of a company's faxes, and NiceLog Version 6.0, a digital recording system that archives telephone conversations.

VocalTec, Cisco, Dialogic band together: VocalTec recently announced a newly formed cooperative coalition of Internet, telephony, hardware, software and networking industry leaders which intends to create a set of standards for the compatibility of Internet telephony products. Along with VocalTec (Nasdaq: VOCLT), the American Cisco Systems (Nasdaq: CSCO) and Dialogic Corp. (Nasdaq: DLGC) will be among the participants in the Voice Over IP Forum.

Correction: Green Computers is offering a free package of computer accessories and software worth NIS 2,000 with the purchase of any of the company's new line of computers.

OPEC '95 oil export value up at \$132b.

LONDON (Reuter) - The value of OPEC oil exports in 1995 rose to \$132 billion from \$120b. in 1994, OPEC said yesterday.

But the organization ended the year with an estimated current account deficit of \$6b., compared with a 1994 deficit of \$5.4b., the Vienna-based Secretariat said in its *Annual Statistical Bulletin*.

The bulletin showed that only four of the 11 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries ended the year in the black - Iran, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Venezuela. Of the countries in deficit, Indonesia was the most affected at \$7.5b. followed by Saudi Arabia at \$5.4b.

The revenue increase was achieved thanks to higher oil prices and despite a slight fall in crude oil output to 24.6 million barrels per day (bpd) from 24.61 million bpd the year before, the

Secretariat said. OPEC bases its production levels on figures provided by the 11 members themselves. But independent sources say OPEC output is currently running at about 26 million bpd, well above its self-allocated 25.03 million bpd ceiling.

The Secretariat said OPEC's crude oil exports in 1995 edged up to 18.08 million bpd from 18.02 million in 1994 with Venezuela leading the way with a 122,600 bpd increase. However, growing production from rival producers meant that OPEC's export market share actually fell to 56.4 percent from 57.6% in 1994.

OPEC ended 1995 with 76.3% of the world's proven crude oil reserves, unchanged from the year before despite an increase of 7.5 billion barrels. The world's proven crude oil reserves at end-1995 stood at 1.03 trillion barrels of which OPEC held 785 billion, OPEC said.

Olivetti denies Garuzzo's PC sale comments

MILAN (Reuter) - Italy's information technology group Olivetti denied yesterday that its vice chairman Giorgio Garuzzo had made any comments regarding the planned sale of Olivetti's personal computer company.

Milan financial daily *Il Sole 24 Ore* quoted Garuzzo saying the group "had received a better offer" for its PC company, after the paper said talks between Olivetti and corporate debt specialist Klesch & Co and US financier Bernat Lebow had been frozen.

But an Olivetti spokesman said, "No press agency or press organization, including *Il Sole 24 Ore*, has ever got in touch with nor collected any statement from Mr. Garuzzo concerning on-going negotiations of the Olivetti group, including the one regarding Olivetti PCs."

Olivetti hopes to sell its loss-making PC company by the end of this year, but the group has consistently declined to make any comments on any potential talks with any prospective buyers until a deal is completed. "No names, no comment until the deal is done," the Olivetti spokesman said.

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A TERRACED HOUSE

Offers are invited for the purchase of the title of a terraced house in the "Rosemarine" project situated in Medinat Hayehudim Street, corner of Yehoshua Ben Nun, in Herzliya Pituach.

The registered area of the house is 272.47 sq.m. The house is registered in the Land Registry under Parcel 383/16, Block 6517 (hereinafter "the Property").

- The property can be viewed by arrangement with Mr. Yoel Hanzon at the telephone mentioned below.
- A draft of the purchase agreement (hereinafter, "the Purchase Agreement"), which the bidder will be required to sign may be obtained from the office of Bruchstein, Weiner, Biro, Wertheim & Co., of 75 Nachlat Benyamim St., Tel Aviv.
- Offers should be submitted to the undersigned together with an unconditional financial bank guarantee in favour of the undersigned for 10% of the amount offered to be in effect for a period of 3 months from the date of the offer, linked to the rate of the United States Dollar. Offers should be submitted within 20 days of the date of the advertisement of this notice by way of presenting a signed purchase agreement by the offeror, with the amount of the price as contained in the bid form only after receiving the prior approval of the Chief Execution Officer in Kir Saba.
- The undersigned does not undertake to accept the highest offer or any other at all.
- The undersigned reserves the right to carry on negotiations at any stage with all the offerors jointly or with one or more of them separately and to auction the Property between the competing offerors. The undersigned may advertise additional invitations for offers to purchase the property.
- The sale is subject to the approval of the Chief Execution officer in Kir Saba.
- An offeror who withdraws his offer will forfeit his guarantee as agreed compensation.

Shlomo Z. Wertheim, Adv., Receiver.
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US\$9,985 per person, sharing a double room.

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Phone: 09-9572777 Fax: 09-9572772

Apple Computer plans 'cybercafes'

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Apple Computer Inc. has announced what it hopes will be a chain of restaurants where customers can rove the Internet and play video games while sipping cappuccino.

Plans for the Los Angeles Apple Cafe were unveiled Tuesday at a reception at the Museum of Television and Radio in Beverly Hills. No site has been chosen for the cafe, expected to open next year.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (12.11.96)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.8125	3.6712	3.65	3.51	3.6415
German mark	2.1305	2.1840	2.08	2.20	2.1473
Pound sterling	5.5032	5.3888	5.21	5.47	5.3432
French franc	0.6302	0.6404	0.61	0.65	0.6332
Japanese yen (100)	2.8506	2.8271	2.83	2.87	2.8554
Dutch florin	1.8399	1.8303	1.85	1.86	1.8148
Swiss franc	2.8281	2.8588	2.48	2.81	2.5515
Swedish krona	0.4894	0.4912	0.47	0.50	0.4889
Norwegian krona	0.5081	0.5163	0.49	0.53	0.5118
Danish krone	0.5251	0.5241	0.54	0.58	0.5594
Finnish mark	0.0770	0.0785	0.09	0.12	0.1127
Canadian dollar	2.4055	2.4443	2.36	2.48	2.4247
Australian dollar	2.5282	2.5580	2.48	2.61	2.5492
S. African rand	0.6280	0.6391	0.62	0.70	0.6914
Belgian franc (10)	1.8541	1.8538	1.01	1.07	1.0419
Austrian schilling (10)	3.6277	3.0796	2.97	3.12	3.0511
Italian lira (1000)	2.1154	2.1486	2.07	2.18	2.1326
Jordanian dinar	4.4800	4.7700	4.48	4.77	4.5289
Exception coupon (10)	0.2100	0.2500	0.51	0.99	0.9945
ESU	4.0799	4.1458	-	-	4.1148
Irish punt	5.3167	5.4025	5.22	5.48	5.3535
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5298	2.5707	2.48	2.61	2.6508

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Shares rise in anticipation of Hebron agreement

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

Two-Sided Index 185.37 +0.68% Maof Index 204.91 +0.57%

SHARES rose yesterday amid growing confidence that an agreement would be reached on redeployment in Hebron. The Maof Index climbed 0.57 percent to close at 204.91, while the Two-Sided Index added 0.68% to 195.37.

Dollar floats up on raft of positive comment

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar firmed against the mark in Europe yesterday after a raft of comments from German, US and Japanese officials that they were comfortable with a strengthening US currency.

On the European bourses, leading shares in London and Paris fell back from opening highs and closed flat. Frankfurt was the exception, ending late electronic trading at a record high after Wall Street moved up again after its sixth consecutive record close overnight.

Bundesbank president Hans Tietmeyer was the latest to add his voice to an international chorus of dollar-friendly comments welcoming the US currency's recent rally and saying he "would not mind if it were to go a little further."

Earlier, Japan's "Mr. Yen", senior finance ministry official Eisuke Sakakibara, welcomed a rising dollar and US Treasury Under-secretary Jeffrey Shafer

said on Wednesday the policy of the new Clinton administration still favored dollar strength. "It's a concerted effort. I don't quite know why they need to talk the dollar up here, but they're certainly doing a successful job," said Alan Collins, head of technical analysis at Merita Bank in London.

The dollar pushed to a session high of 1.5117 marks and settled at 1.5095 by 1645 GMT, up from late Wednesday's European level of 1.5041.

But dollar/yen went the other way, dropping to a session low of 111.20. Traders said it was depressed by cross rate trading between the mark and the yen, in which the Japanese currency slipped below key support at 73.85 to the mark.

US data issued yesterday painted an inflation-benign picture, which analysts said backed the Federal Open Market Committee's decision on Wednesday to leave US rates on hold.

Due to technical difficulties, the Wall Street Report was unavailable last night.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SFY, FFr. Rows show exchange rates for various currencies.

FINAL HOURS

(Continued from Page 1) But the presence of the dignitaries relieves the tension. They bring out the onlookers, both Palestinian and Israeli. Everybody looks, gazes, chats; but they aren't looking, gazing, and chatting at one another. Hebron is receiving attention like it rarely has in the past. When the city was first taken over by Israel in 1967, people used to go to the cave to see it, get married in its shadows. The same is happening now, though more bar mitzvas than weddings. In 1967, people went to come say hello to the sites, now they seem to be bidding them farewell. Arnon is asked again and again,

HOT PURSUIT

(Continued from Page 1) demand that Israel establish deadlines for implementation of future withdrawals specified in the Oslo 2 agreement and establish stages for discussion of permanent settlement issues. The sources expressed optimism that these matters would be resolved in a few hours of talks, but backtracked after talks made little progress. In Gaza, Arafat said earlier to reporters, "I am sorry we didn't make progress. They are still insisting on points we cannot accept. I am not optimistic." Over several weeks, Israel has backed down on its demands for freedom of action by its forces in H1 and an IDF presence on hills overlooking the Jewish quarter. The Palestinians accept no IDF entry into H1 except in joint mobile units. This may be what prompted settlers to say that the agreement shaping up is worse than the agreement made by the Labor government, which allowed for unspecified "engagement" in H1 when necessary prior to informing the Palestinian Police. In light of the September riots, a 300-meter no-arms buffer zone around much of H2, the Israeli-

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of stock prices and market data for Tel Aviv, including sections for Commercial, Industrials, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Insurance, Trade & Services, and Oil Exploration.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices for various companies and markets, including New York, London, and other global locations.

Key Representative Rates table showing exchange rates for U.S. Dollar, Sterling, and German mark.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

Table of New York market indexes including DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, and NYSE Composite.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes including FTSE 100, Nikkei 225, and Hang Seng.

Israeli stocks in US

Table of Israeli stocks listed in the US market, including Am Tel, Bezeq, and others.

INFLATION MARKETS

Table of inflation and commodity markets including dollar crossrates and various commodity prices.

Foreign financial data courtesy of Commstock Trading Ltd.

Text block providing contact information for Commstock Trading Ltd. and details about their services.

US commodities

Table of US commodity prices for various goods like oil, sugar, and wheat.

London commodities

Table of London commodity prices for various goods.

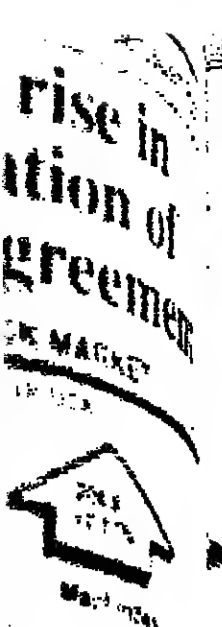
Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metal prices for various metals.

New York metal futures

Table of New York metal futures prices for various metals.

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is the oldest university in Israel. The graduate program in communication was founded in 1965 and an undergraduate program in journalism and communication was initiated in 1992. The Smart Family Institute of Communication, founded in 1986, supports research in communication in Israel.

Formal evaluation of applications will begin on February 16, 1997, and will continue until the position is filled. Please submit a curriculum vitae (with fax number and e-mail address if available), three references, and copies of any recent publications to: **Dr. Gad Wolfson, Department Chair, The Department of Communication and Journalism, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem, 91905, Israel (fax: 972-2-5827069).**

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Moussa downplays Israel's economic role in region

DAVID HARRIS
CAIRO

ISRAEL is no longer a central player in the region, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said yesterday at the Cairo economic conference's final press conference. Unlike the previous economic conferences in Casablanca and Amman, at Cairo Israeli hegemony gave way to a strengthening of relations among Arabs.

Moussa also had insisted that the closure in the territories appear in the summit's final communiqué. The communiqué outlined the hardships the Palestinians face under the



ongoing closure and called for its immediate end on the basis of guaranteed security for all sides.

The statement also addressed the general economic needs of the Middle East, outlining the requirement for additional privatization and the cooperation of foreign business partners.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor described the conference as highly successful, words supported by PA Planning and International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath. However, those party to the final summit declaration were locked in discussions for most of yesterday, trying to agree on the wording of the statement.

Israeli government officials confirmed that there was disagree-



Finance Minister Meridor ment as to whether to include a reference to the closure. "They certainly didn't push

Israel into a corner here," Meridor said earlier in the day.

Israel has been doing business and the politicians have all held very positive meetings with their Arab colleagues, he said.

Most Israeli businesspeople here said they succeeded in meeting Arabs and others, with some bringing Saudi Arabian guests with them to an official lunch hosted by Israel.

One of those who called for widespread participation from Israel's business community, Koor CEO Benny Gaon, said, "Overall I am happy, but one or two things did not go so well. I'll only talk about

them when we're back in Israel." Israel's regional project coordinator, Yossi Vardi, meanwhile, said there is general satisfaction among participants from all countries "despite the conference starting on two left feet."

However, the Labor Party's representative at the summit, Ephraim Sneh, said there was a gloom overshadowing the event. "Israel was pushed aside," he said. "It's very sad Israel has lost its leading economic role in the Middle East."

He added that an IDF withdrawal from Hebron would not automatically ease tensions.

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy. Showers and possible thunder storms. Shabbat: No change.

City	Forecast
Jerusalem	12-21
Tel Aviv	13-24
Beersheva	11-27
Haifa	11-27
Amman	11-27
Baghdad	11-27
London	11-27
New York	11-27
Paris	11-27
Rome	11-27
Madrid	11-27
Moscow	11-27
Stockholm	11-27
Oslo	11-27
London	11-27
Paris	11-27
Rome	11-27
Madrid	11-27
Moscow	11-27
Stockholm	11-27
Oslo	11-27

Israeli consul in Cairo to meet with Azzam today

DAVID HARRIS
CAIRO

ISRAEL'S consul in Cairo is allowed to meet today with Azzam Azzam, the Maghar man arrested in Egypt last week on suspicion of spying for Israel.

The visit was agreed upon during a meeting last night between Egypt's Deputy Prime Minister Yousef Wally and Assad Assad, Prime Minister Binayamin Netanyahu's adviser on minorities and political affairs.

As soon as the police conclude their investigation, Wally said he would let Israel know what the exact situation is. He told Assad he understands the considerable Israeli concern for Azzam's welfare.

"I told Wally I believe in Egyptian justice," Assad said.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor yesterday pledged to continue pressing Egypt regarding Azzam's arrest.

"We've done all we can on the diplomatic front," Meridor said. "We have asked for our consul in Cairo to be able to meet Azzam as soon as possible."

The Israeli government has checked into every possibility to establish whether Azzam was involved in espionage but it is absolutely clear that he was not working for any Israeli agency, a senior government official said yesterday.

"Azzam is not an agent for any security arm," the source reiterated. "We have checked all avenues and he is simply not involved in any way."

Azzam's family representative Ayoub Kara met US State Department Peace Process and Regional Affairs Director Paul E. Simons in a bid to persuade the US to intervene on Azzam's behalf.

Batsheva Tzar contributed to this report.

PA misses out the most on Cairo's opportunities

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK
DAVID HARRIS

WITH another business conference concluded, the suits headed for the airport and the organizers began removing all the paraphernalia that has adorned the huge Cairo international conference center these past three days.

Farewell handshakes and smiles abounded, as the last of the dwindling supply of business cards were distributed.

Yet, throughout the conference one thing stood out as being abnormal - the almost total absence of the Palestinian business community, which should have been one of the main players in the conference. As a result, the Palestinian Authority missed many of the opportunities available at the regional gathering.

This was readily apparent at the stalls where each country sold itself by distributing glossy brochures. The Israeli stall was staffed by senior government officials, who facilitated meetings between Israeli and foreign businesspeople. Just yards away, the PA stall was staffed by junior officials and Planning Minister Nabil Shaath and Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Maher Masri. The two ministers offered business advice and then ran to make speeches in plenary sessions, immediately returning to the stall.

One Israeli businessman asked

in despair, "How can we help them if they won't help themselves?"

Masri said he was disappointed by the lack of Palestinian participation, but added he understands the decision to stay away.

When Shaath appeared on a boogie television screen in the press center, only one Asian journalist watched. Several hundred other journalists in the room paid no attention to Shaath as he talked of investments, industrial parks and future economic development in "Palestine."

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Forecast
Amman	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy
Baghdad	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy
Beersheva	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy
Chicago	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy
Cairo	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy
London	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy
Madrid	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy
Moscow	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy
New York	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy
Paris	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy
Rome	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy
Stockholm	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy
Tel Aviv	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy
Tokyo	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy
Washington	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy
Zurich	11-27	18-24	partly cloudy

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